

REMARKS

In response to the non-final office action of October 31, 2006, applicants ask that all claims be allowed in view of the amendment to the claims and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 3-12, and 14-26 are currently pending, of which claims 1, 12, and 21 are independent. Claims 1, 3, 4, 10, 12, 14, 15, and 21 have been amended, claims 2 and 13 have been canceled, and claims 22-26 have been added. Support for these amendments and new claims may be found in the application at, for example, page 25, line 1 through page 28, line 25 referring to Fig. 6 and page 34, line 3 through page 36, line 26 referring to Fig. 9. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 1, 12, and 21 have been amended to require performing the deployment sub-process to store the data attribute in electronic storage and claim 12 has amended to recite "a computer readable medium" instead of "an information carrier." The amendments of claims 1, 12, and 21 are believed to address all of the Examiner's concerns. Therefore, applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 1-21 have been rejected as being anticipated by Bal (U.S. Patent Application No. 2004/0164961). Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because Bal does not describe or suggest the subject matter of independent claims 1, 12, and 21, as described below.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites a computer-implemented method for performing a data analysis process. The method includes accessing an input identifying a data analysis process and accessing user-defined data associated with the data analysis process. The user-defined data includes sub-process indicators that define the data analysis process. Each sub-process indicator identifies a sub-process associated with the data analysis process. At least one identified sub-process is a deployment sub-process for storing, in electronic storage, a data attribute created in another one of the identified sub-processes, and at least one identified sub-process is (1) an extraction sub-process for extracting data from a transactional data source, (2) a transformation sub-process for transforming data extracted from the transactional data source from a data format used by the transactional data source to a data format used for analytical processing, (3) a loading sub-process for loading data into an analytical data source that is used

for analytical processing, or (4) a data mining sub-process for creating a data attribute by performing an analytical process on data from the analytical processing data source. The method also includes performing the sub-processes identified by the sub-process indicators included in the user-defined data.

Bal does not describe or suggest accessing user-defined data associated with the data analysis process, the user-defined data including sub-process indicators defining the data analysis process, each sub-process indicator identifying a sub-process associated with the data analysis process, and performing the sub-processes identified by the sub-process indicators included in the user-defined data, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Rather, Bal is directed to a system for continuously monitoring a plurality of data sources for an event of interest. See Bal at paragraph [0005]. The system includes a data download and analytics engine subsystem that includes a processing unit. See Bal at paragraph [0028]. The processing unit includes a data fetch entity, a data extraction, transformation, and loading entity, and an analytics engine. See Bal at paragraph [0029]. In determining an event of interest, the data fetch entity, the data extraction, transformation, and loading entity, and the analytics engine perform their operations sequentially each time to determine a parameter related to the event of interest. See Bal at paragraph [0029] and [0030]; see also Fig. 6. The system of Bal does not perform a data analysis process by accessing user-defined data including sub-process indicators and performing the sub-processes identified by the sub-process indicators. Rather, the system of Bal merely performs a static data analysis process each time data analysis is needed. The static data analysis process is described as being performed each time by executing the same three separate steps. As such, Bal fails to describe or suggest accessing user-defined data associated with the data analysis process, where the user-defined data includes sub-process indicators defining the data analysis process and each sub-process indicator identifies a sub-process associated with the data analysis process, and performing the sub-processes identified by the sub-process indicators included in the user-defined data, as recited in amended independent claim 1.

Therefore, for at least these reasons, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 3-11.

Independent claims 12 and 21 recite features similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, and do so in the context of a computer-readable medium and a system.

Accordingly, for the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claim 12 and its dependent claims 14-20 and independent claim 21.

New claims 22-26 each depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. At least for the reason of that dependency and the reasons noted above with respect to independent claim 1, applicants submit that claims 22-26 are allowable.

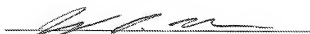
It is believed that all of the pending issues have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this reply should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this reply, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The fee in the amount of \$150.00 in payment for the excess claim fees is being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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